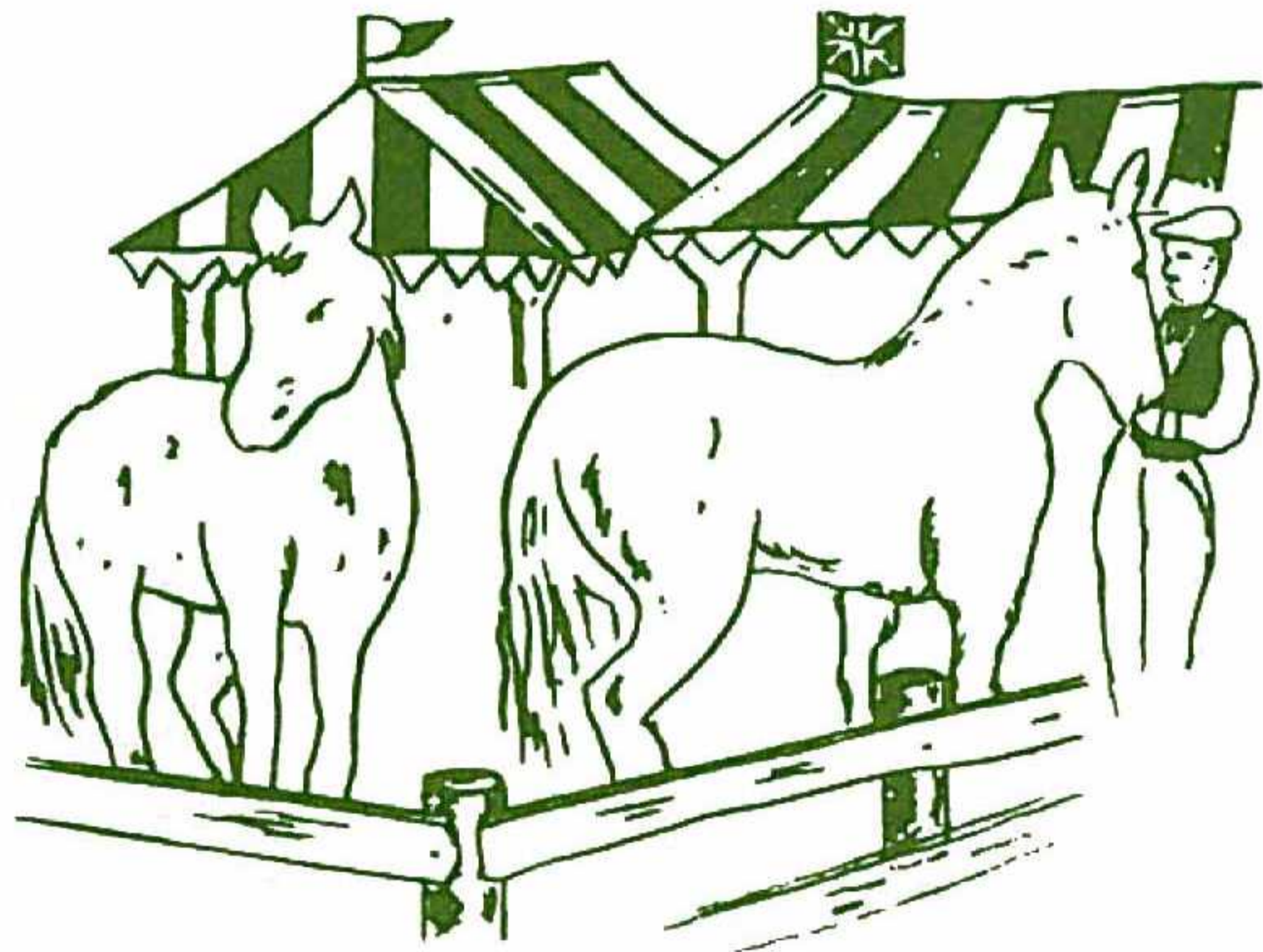


Northamptonshire's largest medieval fair, Boughton Green fair, was held every June on the triangular piece of land south of St. John the Baptist's Church. It became the largest horse market in the Midlands and was also famous for its wide variety of goods and entertainments.



Boughton Green Fair

There was a stone lock-up on the green which was used to hold the infamous prize fighter 'Captain Slash', alias George Catherall. He was found guilty of theft and was executed in Northampton on 21st July 1826, after reputedly kicking off his boots and shouting "My mother always told me I should die in my boots, but I'm going to dish the old girl!"

A ghost appearing as either a handsome young man or beautiful girl is said to walk the churchyard near Boughton Green, at midnight, on Christmas Eve. It lures passers by to give a promise and a kiss, only to repay them with an early death.

A Walkers' Code



1. Always keep to the path to avoid trespass. If the path is obstructed you are allowed to seek a reasonable way round the obstruction, taking care to avoid causing damage. Please report the obstruction to the highway authority.
2. Remember to close gates behind you. Straying stock can cause damage or spread disease and carelessness may lead to tragedy.
3. To avoid harm or distress to farm animals and wildlife it is best to leave dogs at home. If you have to bring them they should be kept on a leash.
4. If your route takes you onto a road keep to the right, facing oncoming traffic and use the verge if one exists.
5. Always wear suitable clothing and footwear for the season and remember to allow plenty of time to complete your chosen walk.
6. Remember that every piece of land in the countryside belongs to someone, so please treat it with respect and other walkers will be made welcome.

If you experience any difficulty on your walk such as barbed wire, locked gates or damaged stiles and footbridges, please report them to the Principal Rights of Way Officer, Area 2 Office, Arnex House, London Road, Daventry. Tel. Daventry 301001.

Your general comments on this leaflet and the route will be welcomed by the Director of Planning and Transportation, Northampton House, Northampton. NN1 2HZ

Compiled and drawn by Sue Payne and Countryside Access Community Programme. Grateful assistance from Moulton Conservation Group and Chas Alibone.

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Northamptonshire Countryside Services is a branch of Northamptonshire Planning and Transportation Department

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Countryside Walks

Moulton



 Northamptonshire
Countryside Services

Local snippets

The name Moulton is believed by some to derive from the Old English 'Mul'-a stream, or perhaps from 'Mola', a mill; others would have us believe that it derives from 'Mele-ton', a pre-Roman 'embanked and protected enclosure' of the British chiefs. It could also stand for 'Mule Farm'.

Moulton is mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086 A.D.) and the modern-day Manor Farm is thought to have been built on the site of the old Manor House. It also had a medieval castle which is supposed to have been the residence of the Fitz John family, but no traces of this building survive.

The Parish Church in Moulton is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul and both saints are portrayed within a stained glass window in the south aisle. The present building dates mainly from the early 14th Century but it is thought that worship on this site goes back as far as the 9th Century.

Inside the church is a piece of the shaft of a Saxon preaching cross rescued from the foundations of the nave. Dated 850 A.D., it is decorated with an intricate interlaced pattern and a carving of a Great Beast. There are also eight Saxon and Norman engraved stones within the church and the aisleless nave is of Norman origins. A Saxon look-out or 'arrow stone' is in the North Arcade.



William Carey

William Carey was born in Paulerspury in 1761 where he became a shoemaker who taught himself the Greek, Latin, Hebrew, French and Dutch languages. He moved to Moulton in 1785 and was only allowed to stay after signing a certificate saying he belonged to Paulerspury - in case he became a pauper.

In Moulton as well as continuing shoemaking he was the schoolmaster and preacher. During this period he formed his ideas about Missionary work and in 1792 left for Leicester to publish 'Carey's Enquiry'. In 1793 he went to India with John Thomas to become the first English Protestant to take Christianity there.

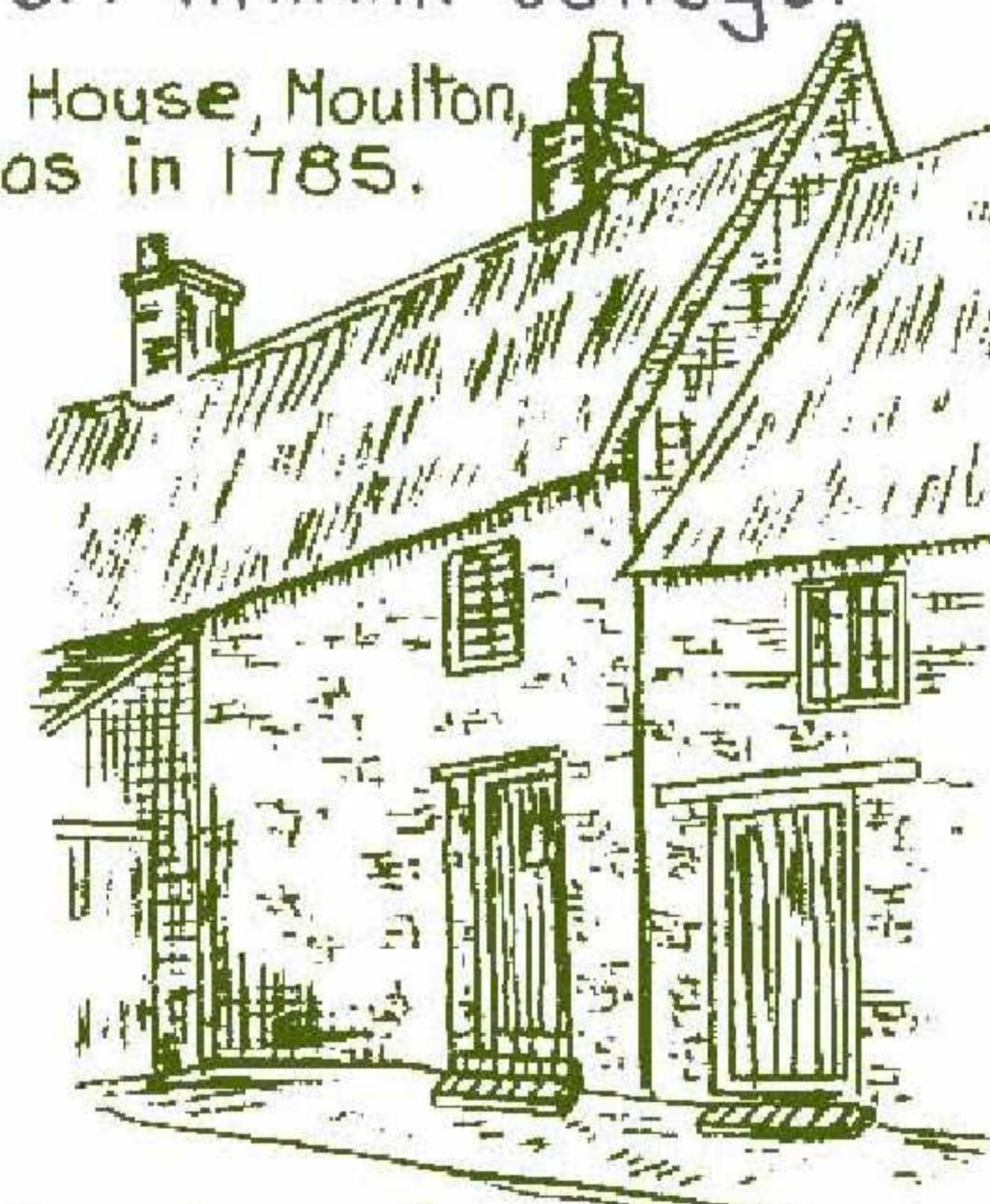
In India, Carey translated the Bible into native dialects, opened a school for orphan boys, founded the first college of Further Education in Serampore and set up the first botanical gardens in Calcutta. He became professor of Bengali and Sanskrit (an ancient Indian language) at Fort William College.



William Carey

Carey's cottage still stands and contains a small private museum housing his Church Covenant, Minute Book and Pulpit as well as other personal possessions. Nearby is the Baptist Chapel where he preached.

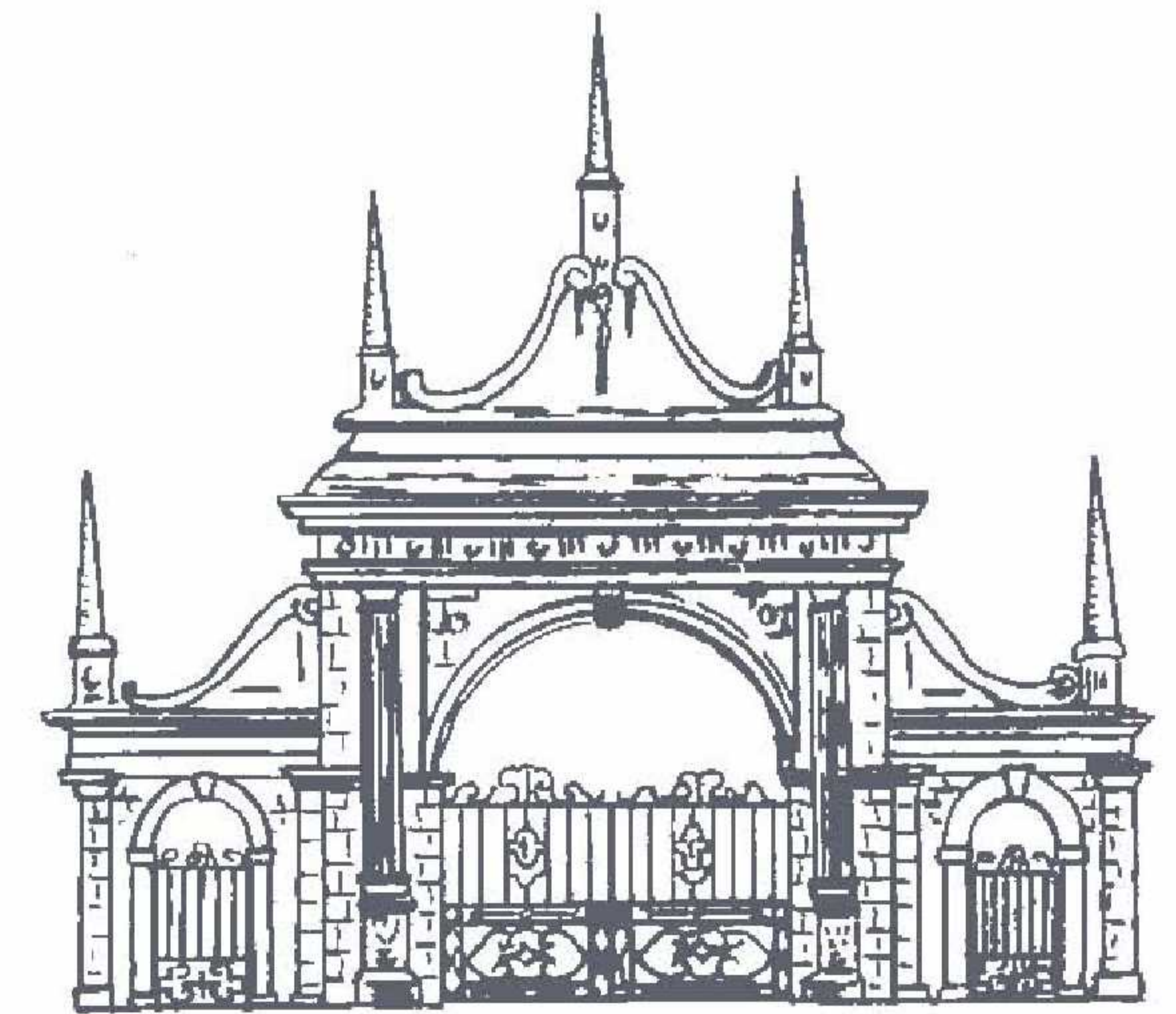
Carey's House, Moulton, as it was in 1785.



Overstone which has also been known as Oveston and Ovuston is not in the Domesday Survey and the first mention of it is in 1167.

The present hall was designed in 1860 for Samuel Jones Loyd, the first Lord Overstone, who was described in 1865 as being one of the wealthiest subjects in the world. The architect was William Milford Teulon and the building is said to 'defeat description and appreciative analysis' combining bays, gables, towers and motifs from French and Italian architecture. At the same time the 16th century gateway from Pytchley Hall was reconstructed on the north-west corner of the estate.

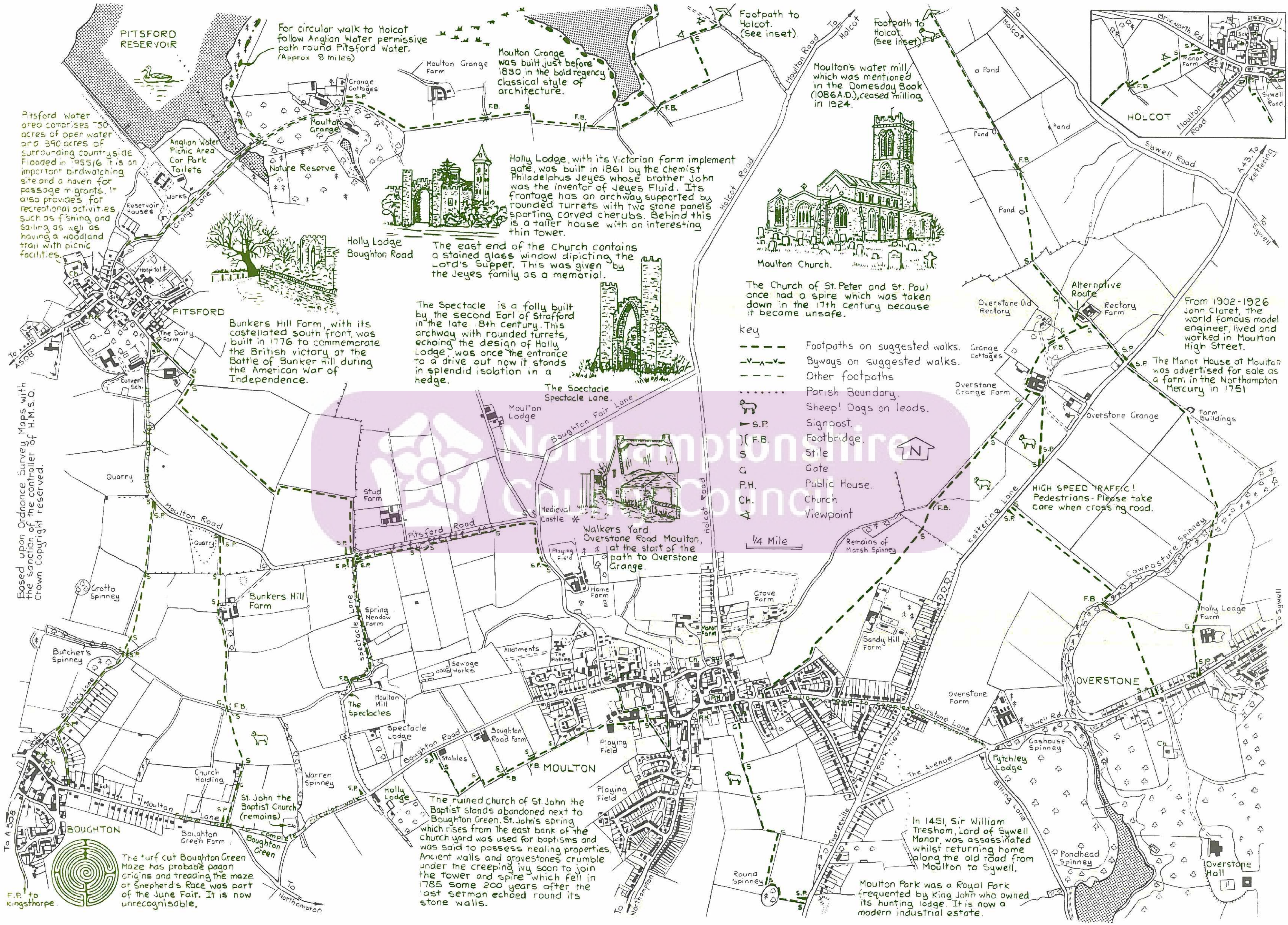
The hall is now the British Headquarters of the New Testament Church of God.



Gateway - Overstone Park.

Long before the four thousand million gallon reservoir was built in 1956, Pitsford village had access to 300 springs. These however, did not help stop a fire that broke out on 18th August 1619, destroying twenty houses and causing 3,000 pound worth of damage.

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Pitsford Water area comprises 750 acres of open water and 390 acres of surrounding countryside. Flooded in 1955/6 it is an important birdwatching site and a haven for passage migrants. It also provides for recreational activities such as fishing and sailing as well as having a woodland trail with picnic facilities.

PITSFORD RESERVOIR

For circular walk to Holcot follow Anglian Water permissive path round Pitsford Water. (Approx. 8 miles)

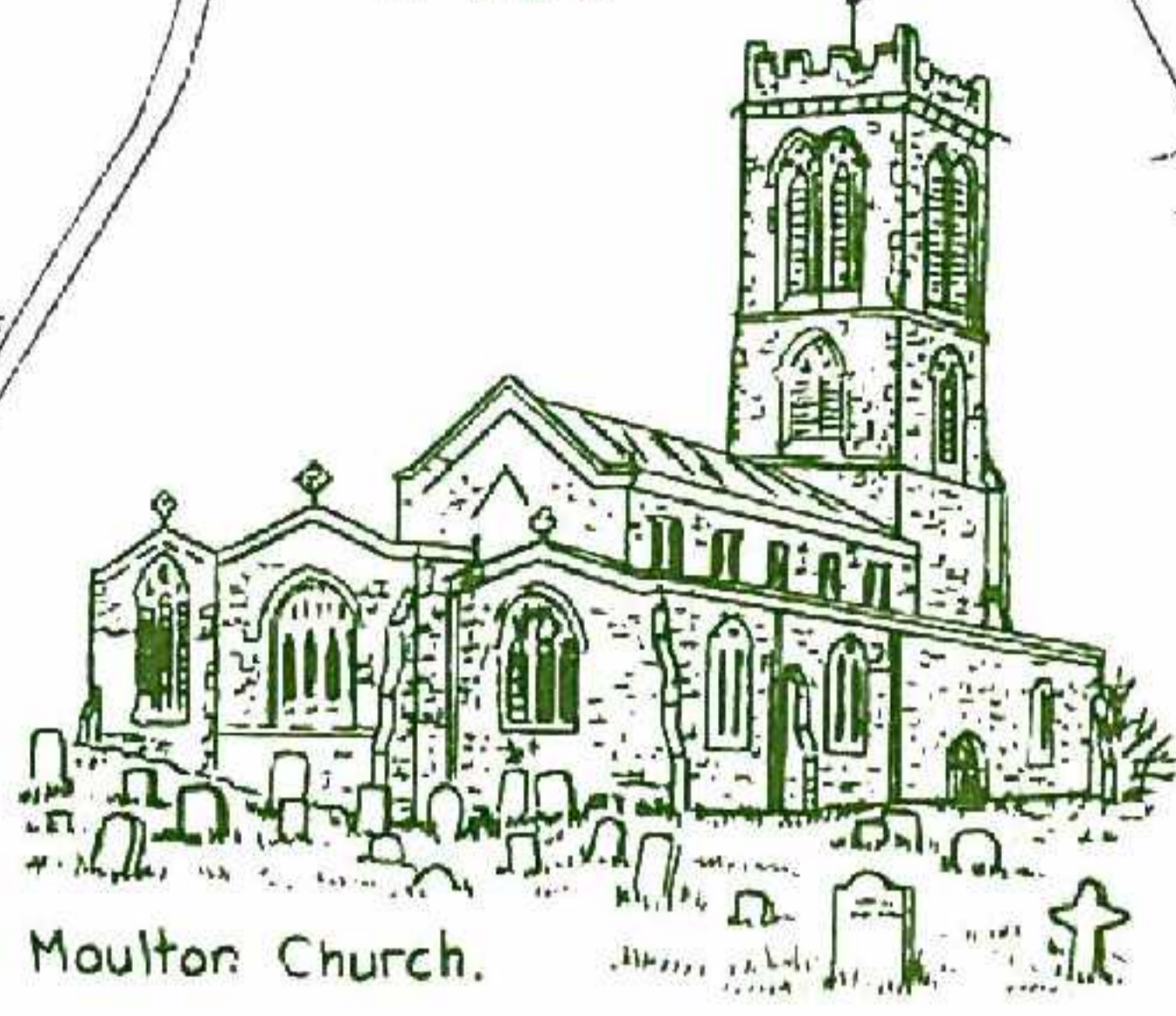
Moulton Grange was built just before 1830 in the bold regency classical style of architecture.



Holly Lodge, with its Victorian farm implement gate, was built in 1861 by the chemist Philadelphus Jeyes whose brother John was the inventor of Jeyes Fluid. Its frontage has an archway supported by rounded turrets with two stone panels sporting carved cherubs. Behind this is a taller house with an interesting thin tower.

Holly Lodge Boughton Road

The east end of the Church contains a stained glass window depicting the Lord's Supper. This was given by the Jeyes family as a memorial.

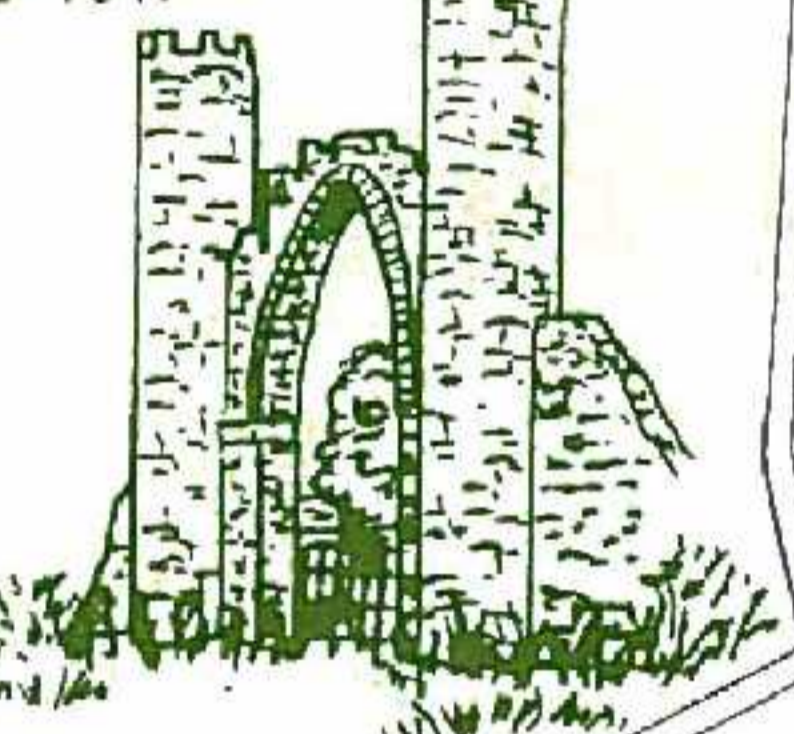


Moulton Church.

The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul once had a spire which was taken down in the 17th century because it became unsafe.

Bunkers Hill Farm, with its castellated south front, was built in 1776 to commemorate the British victory at the Battle of Bunker Hill during the American War of Independence.

The Spectacle is a folly built by the second Earl of Strafford in the late 18th century. This archway with rounded turrets, echoing the design of Holly Lodge, was once the entrance to a drive out now it stands in splendid isolation in a hedge.



The Spectacle Spectacle Lane

- key**
- Footpaths on suggested walks.
 - v-v- Byways on suggested walks.
 - Other footpaths
 - Parish Boundary.
 - 🐑 Sheep! Dogs on leads.
 - ⌵ S.P. Signpost.
 - ⌵ F.B. Footbridge.
 - S Stile
 - C Gate
 - P.H. Public House.
 - Ch. Church
 - ▲ Viewpoint

1/4 Mile

HIGH SPEED TRAFFIC! Pedestrians - Please take care when crossing road.



The turf cut Boughton Green Maze has probable pagan origins and treading the maze or Shepherd's Race was part of the June Fair. It is now unrecognisable.

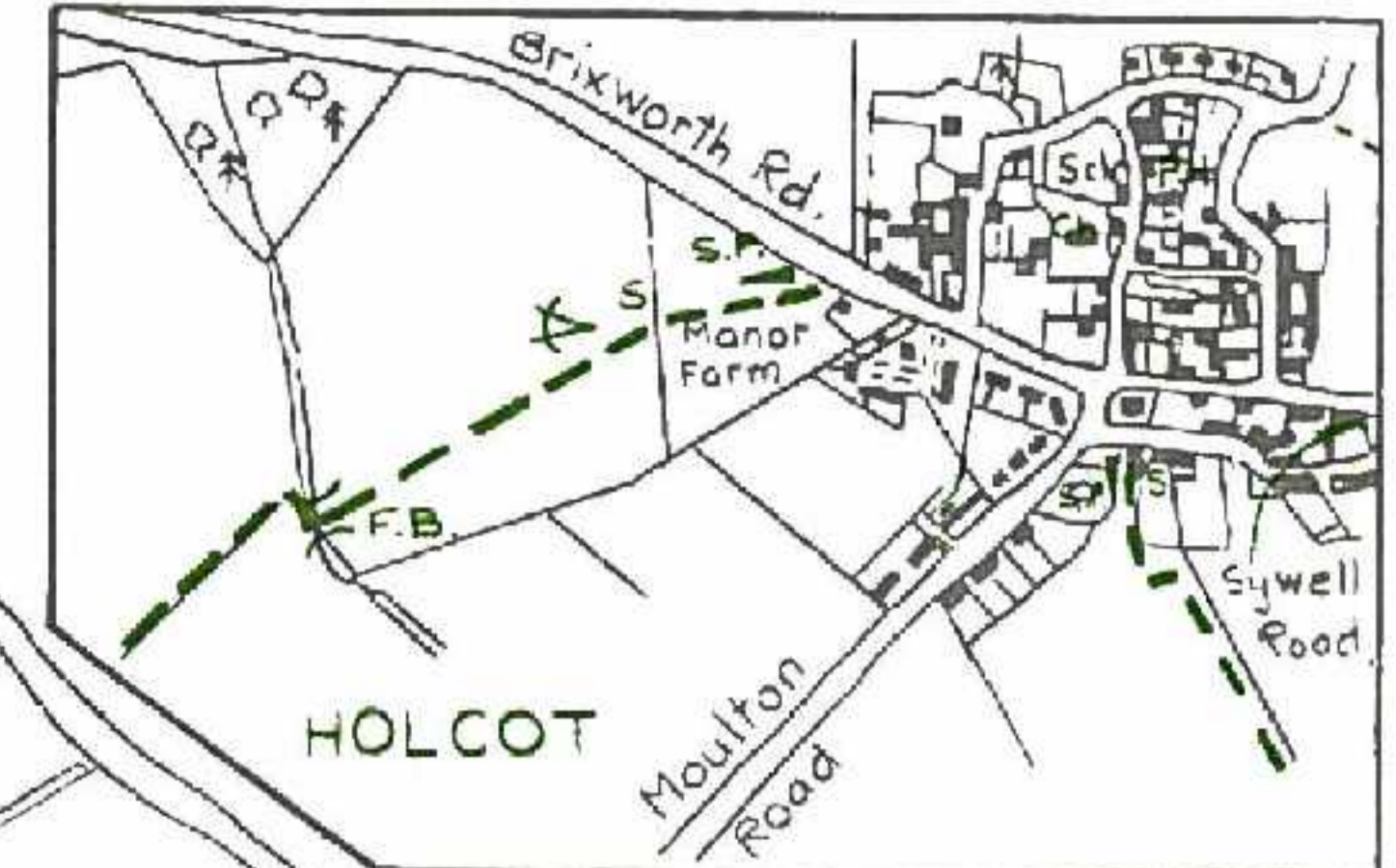
The ruined church of St. John the Baptist stands abandoned next to Boughton Green. St. John's spring which rises from the east bank of the church yard was used for baptisms and was said to possess healing properties. Ancient walls and gravestones crumble under the creeping ivy soon to join the tower and spire which fell in 1785 some 200 years after the last sermon echoed round its stone walls.

In 1451, Sir William Tresham, Lord of Sywell Manor, was assassinated whilst returning home along the old road from Moulton to Sywell.

Moulton Park was a Royal Park frequented by King John who owned its hunting lodge. It is now a modern industrial estate.

From 1902-1926 John Claret, the world famous model engineer, lived and worked in Moulton High Street.

The Manor House at Moulton was advertised for sale as a farm in the Northampton Mercury in 1751



HOLCOT

Alternative Route

Overstone Old Rectory

Rectory Farm

Grange cottages

Overstone Grange Farm

Overstone Grange

Farm Buildings

Overstone Grange

Holly Lodge Farm

Overstone Farm

Overstone Farm

Overstone Farm

Overstone Farm

Overstone Farm

Overstone Farm

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